

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Akihiro YASUDA et al. **Mail Stop PCT**
Appl. No. : Not Yet Assigned (U.S. National Phase of PCT/JP2004/014648)
I. A. Filed : October 5, 2004
For : FIXING APPARATUS

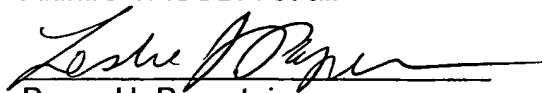
CLAIM OF PRIORITY

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop PCT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Applicant hereby claims the right of priority granted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119 and 365 based upon Japanese Application Nos. 2003-358024, filed October 17, 2003; 2003-358330, filed October 17, 2003; and 2004-155165, filed May 25, 2004. The International Bureau already should have sent certified copies of the Japanese applications to the United States designated office. If the certified copies have not arrived, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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April 10, 2006
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